

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**

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Agenda Item # 9

January 15, 2000

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: CALFED's Governance Proposal  
*(For Commission Consideration and Possible Adoption)*

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**BACKGROUND:**

CALFED is currently operating under a Memorandum of Understanding between the State of California and the federal government. Once the environmental document is approved, CALFED will move into a new, implementation phase. To carry out its proposed work, a new CALFED must be created. Several options have been discussed including a new MOU, creation of a new agency, etc.

Currently, CALFED is evaluating a "straw" proposal developed by the California Environmental Trust. The proposal would require State and federal legislation, and would create a new State-federal agency to oversee the CALFED program. The proposed agency would include six federal seats, six state seats, and six "stakeholder" seats.

The Commission reviewed the "straw" proposal at its November meeting and suggested some changes to the designated seats on the new agency. The Commission asked the CALFED Subcommittee to review the draft letter and forward a new draft to the Commission for consideration at the January meeting. The CALFED Subcommittee reviewed the draft letter at a meeting on December 8, 1999.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission adopt the draft letter to CALFED.

DRAFT

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
CALFED  
1416 Ninth Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95690

Subject: Delta Protection Commission Review of CALFED's Straw Governance Proposal

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Delta Protection Commission reviewed the "Straw" Governance Proposal at its November 17, 1999 and January 27, 2000 meetings. The Commission discussed the proposal to create a new State-federal agency to implement the CALFED program after the Record of Decision is approved. Because the Delta is "ground zero" for implementation of the CALFED program, it is critical that the new agency members include representatives familiar with the Delta region, its residents, land uses, and issues. The Delta Protection Commission supports integrating a number of Delta representatives into the designations in the "straw" proposal.

The Commission supports the concept of one agency to oversee the entire CALFED program. One agency would keep all parties at the table; would ensure that all aspects of the program move forward together; would provide comprehensive fiscal oversight; and would be more cost effective.

The Commission had the following comments on the make-up of the proposed agency:

1. One of the State Agencies on the Proposed CALFED Commission should be the Delta Protection Commission. The Commission is a State agency with land use planning responsibilities in the Primary Zone of the Delta. The Commission also provides oversight of land use changes in the Primary Zone. Because the Commission has a unique knowledge of Delta land use issues, and can provide a forum for public input and debate of issues in the Delta, the Commission would be a vital and important agency to include on the CALFED Commission.
2. One of the "Stakeholder" Seats should be a Delta Landowner. The "straw" proposal recommends that six public or "stakeholder" seats be included on the CALFED Commission. The proposal indicates that one seat should be a "Delta" seat. The Delta Protection Commission recommends that the public Delta representative be a Delta landowner to ensure the implementing body has access to the local Delta perspective and knowledge.

3. The CALFED Commission Should Include at Least One Local Government Representative from the Five Delta Counties. Local governments statewide will have much of the responsibility for carrying out the CALFED program. Local governments are also closest to the voters/taxpayers/water users/recreational users whom the program serves. Either the Counties or Cities of California should select one representative from the five Delta Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Governance proposal. The Commission looks forward to working with CALFED on these matters in the future.

Sincerely,

Margit Aramburu  
Executive Director

cc: Kate Hansel